AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An absorbent article for absorbing a complex fluid comprising an absorbent structure and superabsorbent particles wherein at least about 5% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles are ~~in flake form~~ flake superabsorbents and have an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1}.

2. (currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is at least about 0.07 μm^{-1}.

3. (currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is at least about 0.10 μm^{-1}.

4. (currently amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is at least about 0.20 μm^{-1}.

5. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particles having the average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have an average thickness of no more than about 40 micrometers.

6. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particles having the average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have an average thickness of from about 10 micrometers to about 30 micrometers.

7. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particles having the average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have an average thickness of from about 15 micrometers to about 25 micrometers.

8. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least about 10% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles have an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1}.

9. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least about 15% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles have an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1}.

10. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least about 20% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles have an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1}.

11. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particles having an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have a particle size distribution of from about 100 micrometers to about 850 micrometers.

12. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particles having an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have an average particle size of from about 200 micrometers to about 700 micrometers.

13. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particles having an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have an average particle size of from about 300 micrometers to about 600 micrometers.

14. (original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is selected from the group consisting of tampons, interlabial pads, feminine napkins, diapers, incontinence products, wound dressings, surgical drapes and gowns, floor mats for surgery, and sponges or wipers used during surgery.

15. (currently amended) A feminine napkin comprising an absorbent structure and superabsorbent particles wherein at least about 5% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles are ~~in flake form~~ flake superabsorbents and have an average surface area to volume ratio

of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} and a thickness of no more than about 40 micrometers.

16. (currently amended) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 15 wherein at least about 15% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles are ~~in flake form~~ flake superabsorbents.

17. (currently amended) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 15 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is about 0.10 μm^{-1}.

18. (currently amended) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 15 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is about 0.20 μm^{-1}.

19. (original) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 15 wherein the thickness is from about 10 micrometers to about 30 micrometers.

20. (original) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 15 wherein the thickness is from about 15 micrometers to about 25 micrometers.

21. (original) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 15 wherein the superabsorbent material having an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} and a thickness of from about 10 micrometers to about 30 micrometers has an

average particle size distribution of from about 100 micrometers to about 850 micrometers.

22. (original) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 21 wherein the average particle size distribution is from about 200 micrometers to about 700 micrometers.

23. (original) The feminine napkin as set forth in claim 21 wherein the average particle size distribution is from about 300 micrometers to about 600 micrometers.

24. (currently amended) A method for absorbing blood or menses comprising contacting the blood or menses with an absorbent article comprising superabsorbent particles wherein at least about 5% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles are ~~in flake form~~ flake superabsorbents and have an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} and a thickness of no more than about 30 micrometers.

25. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is at least about 0.10 μm^{-1}.

26. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the average surface area to volume ratio of the flake superabsorbent particles ~~in flake form~~ is at least about 0.20 μm^{-1}.

27. (original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the thickness from about 10 micrometers to about 30 micrometers.

28. (original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the thickness from about 15 micrometers to about 25 micrometers.

29. (original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the superabsorbent particles having the average surface to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1} have a particle size distribution of from about 100 micrometers to about 850 micrometers.